

From: Gary Goldberg
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 4:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

Hello. I am the president and chief operating officer of Digital Marketing, Inc, a small business dedicated to web hosting and network consulting in operation for eight years, since 1994, in Maryland. I have followed the Microsoft antitrust case closely, both as a general member of the user community and because of a direct connection between Microsoft policies and my business operations. (We use both Linux and Windows NT/2000 to host web servers, and we have found less opportunities to use competing platforms and tools in our work because of companies like Netscape being forced to the sidelines by Microsoft actions in the last decade.

I believe the settlement with Microsoft the Department of Justice has forged, to be weak and ineffective at addressing the wrongs Microsoft Corporation has perpetrated on the computer-using community, and will encourage Microsoft executives to continue their methods in the future.

While I object to many provisions of the settlement, one in particular directly effects my operations -- when Microsoft packs on unneeded and undesired additional products into their operating system in order to prevent competitors from developing competing products, it reduces my opportunities to choose and utilize those competing products on behalf of my clients. It also decreases the reliability and increased the resources my machines need to offer services to my clients, increasing downtime and increasing expense, making it harder for me to compete.

I believe the existing Microsoft settlement to be weak and ineffective, doesn't fairly address either past wrongs or discourages Microsoft Corp from similar behavior in the future, and represents a waste of the enormous money, time and energy expended over the last seven years to rein in a convicted monopolist organization. I appreciate this opportunity under the Tunney Act to register my opinion, and I urge the presiding Judge in this case to reconsider and to not accept the settlement as currently drafted. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gary Goldberg
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- "Space is Big/Space is Dark/It's Hard to Find/A Place to Park - Burma Shave"

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